

CENTER STRIP PARKING PLAN GAINS FAVOR

(Continued from Page One) meeting of the Parking Authority.

Even though it has been clearly shown that parking meters are not a practical way to finance

much-needed off street park, some factions of the community still hold out in favor of the curbstone bandits, it was revealed. More realistic solutions to our

growing parking problem were offered by merchants and professional people in the audience. Sam Levy, noted civic leader, pointed out 68 available parking spaces that can be had without cost if there was less arguing and more action. For instance, he said, there are 18 individual car spaces in this city that have been painted red needlessly. In addition, 50 more spaces could be provided if all alleys were made one-way and parking was allowed in designated areas of the alleys.

Half-a-dozen more sites are available if the red area in front of the auditorium is made available during the day time, one member of the audience pointed out.

"However, in order to get the ball rolling if we are ever to have adequate parking, the City Council must aid in the fight," Levy added.

APPEAL TO WORKERS

Bernard Lee, owner of Bernard's Family Shoe Store, again urged that employees and employers be educated to park away from the shopping core. A recent survey by the parking authority disclosed that 550 downtown parking spaces, on a and off-street, are occupied all day by employers and their employees.

Dr. Don Moshos reviewed the often voiced suggestion that Torrance Blvd. and Cabrillo Ave. be divided down the center, and parallel parking in the center sides be allowed.

Regarding the purchase of off-street parking lots, Levy and several other members of the small audience, came out in favor of using the existing sales tax which nets the city approximately \$60,000 yearly, for the purpose of purchasing the necessary lots.

Charles T. Rippey, Chairman of the Parking Authority, disclosed that 350 additional parking spaces are needed each hour during peak loads in the downtown section. It would cost in excess of \$180,000 to purchase and improve off-street lots for this number of vehicles, it was revealed.

In answer to the suggestion

that the City undertake to procure the lots, City Manager George Stevens said that it is not customary for the municipality to provide parking lots for the benefit of the business people. "It is possible that we would be called upon to do the same thing for Walteria and North Torrance, if we bought lots for the downtown sector," he said.

Dr. Arthur Berke, local dentist, voiced the opinion that license fees paid by all merchants and professional people should be raised to help provide the necessary capital for the purchase of street lots. These fees currently pour near \$55,000 into the City's coffers annually.

A special tax levied on the merchants was recommended by Harry Abramson, owner of National Home Appliances. If we paid an additional ten percent to the half-of-one percent sales tax that we turn in to the city each month, we could add over \$6,000 to parking lot funds," Abramson said.

Fay Parks, of Torrance Plumbing Co., came out in favor of the city buying the lots, and the merchants and professional people repaying the debt by a hike in license fees.

It was pointed out at the meeting, that immediate action is necessary, as the few remaining lots will not be available for much longer. For this reason, it was indicated, it is not feasible attempt to use parking meter revenue to finance the lots. At least five years is required to pay for the meters themselves.

The Parking Authority agreed to confer with city officials at the earliest possible date to see if the City Council will aid in the project of financing the lots. In addition, the Authority promised to discuss terms of sale of each of the lots available now. Rippey stated that the city might agree to rent the lots with the option to buy. The possibility of establishing an assessment district and forming a private corporation of local business people will also be discussed with city officials, Rippey stated.

Liberty Opens Stork Derby; Register Now

Bets are down in the Stork Club Derby being sponsored by the Liberty Home Economy Company on 1623 Cravens Ave. during the months of June and July.

Grand prize in the maternity handicap is a Norge automatic washer, which will be awarded to the new mother whose backers guess the date and hour of the new arrival's birth the closest.

Expectant mothers whose baby is due during June or July are urged to register in the Derby, Milt Isbell, co-owner of Liberty Home Economy said.

As many friends and relatives as desire may list their guess of the date and hour of delivery, Isbell stated. And the more guesses there are the more chance the mother has of winning the work-saving appliance, the Norge automatic washer.

Write-in

(Continued from Page One)

University of California at Berkeley, and is an industrial engineer for Columbia Steel Co. He has worked for Columbia for 16 years. Walton, a member of First Christian Church, is active in garden groups and Boy Scout work.

LET PEOPLE SPEAK

It is reported that his decision to become a write-in candidate was motivated by the desire that the people have an opportunity to pick three new Board members if they desire, at the polls tomorrow.

Beasley, who has been a critic of the alleged "rubber stamp" Board of Education, declared that he would act independently, and would carry out the wishes of the people. He said that administrative pressure on the Board and administrative costs must be reduced. "I want to see more money spent for education," Beasley declared. "I want to end the half-day sessions, get more buildings per dollar spent and start teaching children to equip them to face the problems

of the future business, professional and political world," he continued.

Mrs. Matson declared that she feels that she can be of service to the people due to her interest in children and the schools, and the desire to cut costs and make the money go for more education. "I am budget-minded," she said,

"and I think I can help on the Board of Education."

While the light vote is anticipated, the Ballot Battalion, headed by Paul Loranger, will have cars in the field in an effort to "get out the vote." Places where cars will be available, and locations of polling places are noted elsewhere in this edition.

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